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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,137	12/27/2000	Hiromoto Inoue	50073-042	3305

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EXAMINER	
AKKAPEDDI, PRASAD R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2871	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,137

Applicant(s)

INOUE, HIROMOTO

Examiner

Prasad R Akkapeddi

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasuga et al. (Sasuga) (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,626).

As to claim 1: Sasuga discloses a liquid crystal display (MDL) with two substrates (SUB 1 and SUB 2) with a liquid crystal material (LC), a lower case body (LCA), a LCD cover (SHD), a liquid crystal panel (PNL) having an opening in a display region (LCW), the LCD cover (SHD) is fitted with the case body (LCA) (col.18, lines 1-3). Sasuga discloses that the display panel is equipped on its upper and lower surfaces (surrounding the outside edge), with a thin rubber spacer (rubber cushion, not shown), having an elongated rectangular shape on its four side edges exerting no influence upon the display. The upper side rubber spacer is sandwiched between the display panel and the shield casing and the lower rubber spacer is sandwiched between the display panel and the middle frame. Fitting of the panel, the upper case and the lower case by pushing (pressing) has been disclosed in (col. 18, lines 50-68).

Though Sasuga discloses a cushion material having an upper and lower spacer sandwiched between the display panel and the middle frame, Sasuga does not explicitly teach the cushion material having an outer surface opposing the fitting portion.

The teachings of Sasuga can either be directly applicable to the recitations of the instant claims or can easily be modified to read on the instant claim. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the cushion material into a frame like form that has an outer surface opposing to the fitting portion so that the whole

module is firmly held in its entirety without any necessity for other fixing members (col. 18, lines 65-67).

As to claim 2: Sasuga discloses a rubber cushion and hence the material has excellent elastic coefficient and high friction factor as recited.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-10 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A search of the prior art did not disclose a LCD device comprising a combination of structural elements, more specifically:

(a) Pawl portions provided in the LCD cover and extending to a space between the case body and the hinge members to engage with the hinge members.

(b) Pawl portions provided in the LCD cover in portions where the hinge member is mounted and fixed to the case body together with the hinge member by bolt means.

The prior art (a) Park (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,642) discloses rotatable hinge members (300). However Park does not disclose pawl portions that engage with the hinge members (b) Sasuga (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,626) discloses pawl portions (CL) but does not disclose a rotatable hinge and the engagement of the pawl portions with the hinge.

Art Unit: 2871

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prasad R Akkapeddi whose telephone number is 571-272-2285. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM to 5:30PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PRA

Prasad R Akkapeddi, Ph.D
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

ROBERT H. KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800